

*"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."*  
Thomas Jefferson, 1816

### What will Indiana have to do?

Indiana has made strides the past few years that have put us ahead of the game and allow us to be a leader in the nation on school accountability. The proposed federal education reform bill will require the state to make minor adjustments to the cur-



rent plan but we will not have to start from scratch like many states. The General Assembly will have to work closely with the Department of Education to make sure we have provided enough funding to complete the mandatory testing and assist the schools that do not make the grade.



For more information on the Bush education agenda and other education issues please check out these helpful websites:

[www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org)

[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)

[www.doe.state.in.us](http://www.doe.state.in.us)

[www.edreform.com](http://www.edreform.com)

[www.che.state.in.us/roundtable](http://www.che.state.in.us/roundtable)



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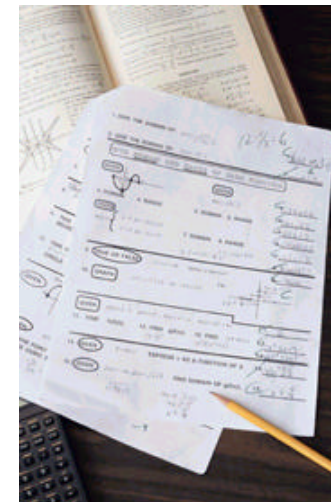
# THE BOTTOM LINE

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## "No Child Left Behind" The Bush Education Agenda

President George W. Bush promised early in his administration that education reform would be one of his top priorities. Bush came through on this promise by developing a strong education proposal that will bring about sweeping education reform. The House and Senate both used this proposal as a starting point in developing their own education bills. Both bills have passed their respective houses and are



now awaiting a conference committee where a compromise can be worked out. Here is a brief overview of the main points of President Bush's proposal and the bills.

### Academic Assessment:

This section requires annual academic assessments in reading and math in grades three through eight. It also requires states and local school districts to distribute report cards on the academic quality of all schools to parents and the communities. The bill allows disadvantaged students in schools that fail for three consecutive



*"The federal role in education is not to serve the system. It is to serve the children."  
President George W. Bush*

years to receive supplemental educational services from a provider of their choice, and it provides rewards to schools that are closing the achievement gap.

### Accountability:

In this section states will be rewarded if they make significant progress in academic achievement for students as a whole, for students from low-income families, and for students from major racial and ethnic groups based on the state's academic assessments. The bill sets sanctions for states that fail to make adequate yearly progress for their disadvantaged students by reducing their administrative funds. It also provides bonuses for states that have annual assessments for grades three through eight in place prior to the 2004-2005 school year.

### Teacher Quality: Training and Recruiting Funds:

The bill consolidates and streamlines the Eisenhower Professional Development program and the Class Size Reduction program to provide states and local schools additional flexibility in the use of these funds. It also provides

civil litigation immunity to teachers, principals, local school board members, superintendents, and other educational professionals when they are sued in an individual capacity for monetary damages under a federal cause of action.

### Reading First:

This new program will triple funded for improving classroom reading instruction for all children in kindergarten through grade three. It also provides professional development to ensure that teachers can identify children at risk for reading failure and provide early instruction to overcome specific barriers to reading proficiency.

### Miscellaneous:

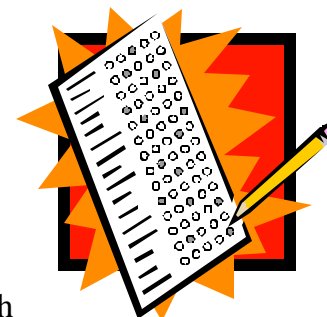
The bill also has a section on character education under which grants will be awarded to states and local educational agencies that design and implement character education programs that can be integrated in state academic content standards and carried out in conjunction with other educational reform efforts. It also provides three-year competitive grants for the planning, program design, and initial implementation of charter schools to states that have charter statutes.




## What Does This Mean on the State Level ?


Both versions of the Bush education plan will require states to look at their current education plans and do some reforming of their own. The question is where does Indiana stand at this point?


In 1999, the General Assembly passed a detailed school performance and accountability package that required the state to develop a plan to hold Hoosier schools accountable for educating our children. The package also created an Education Roundtable, which has adopted new K-12 academic standards for English, math, science and most recently, social studies. The Education Roundtable, along with the Indiana State Board of Education, recently passed a very detailed school accountability plan. Here is an overview of what the law and plan will do for the children of Indiana and what more we will have to do to line up with the pending federal education law.




### The new school accountability plan for Indiana schools includes:

 **Mandatory annual assessment of students in grades 3-10, two years longer than the proposed federal education reform bill.**

 **Schools will be rated for improvement and performance and annual performance reports will be required by each school corporation.**

 **Schools will qualify for financial incentives if all schools within a corporation participate in a comprehensive assessment system, which includes early assessments in Grades K-2 and Core 40 end-of-course tests.**

 **The plan also lays out the different levels in which schools can be placed. Schools that fall into the lowest category will face consequences described in Public Law 221.**

